

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2006-37-C - ORDER NO. 2007-193
MARCH 27, 2007

IN RE: Petition of the Office of Regulatory Staff for a) ORDER ADDRESSING
Rule-Making Proceeding to Examine the) PENDING
Requirements and Standards to Be Used by the) APPLICATIONS AND
Commission When Evaluating Applications) SETTING FORTH DATE
for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier) FOR FILING BRIEFS
(ETC) Status and When Making Annual)
Certification of ETC Compliance to the)
Federal Communications Commission.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“the Commission”) for further consideration of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”). Recently, this Commission determined that we would file proposed regulations to govern designation of ETCs, and schedule a workshop regarding annual certification of ETCs. However, with regard to pending applications for designation of ETC status, this Commission is concerned about further delaying consideration of these applications on their merits, as well as any applications that may be brought during the pendency of the consideration of the Commission’s proposed regulations.

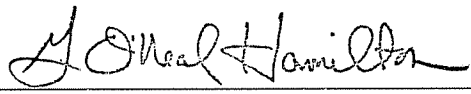
Therefore, in regard to pending applications, as well as applications filed during the pendency of the regulation process, this Commission believes that it can and should move forward to consider ETC applications on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the provisions of Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and

that this Commission should be guided by reference to the services designated for support set out at 47 CFR 54.101. However, we believe that it would be helpful to hear from interested parties regarding whether this Commission should consider the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") May 25, 2005 recommended guidelines regarding designation of new ETCs as part of its analysis of ETC applications during this interim period prior to issuance of this Commission's own ETC regulations.

Therefore, we will proceed to consider pending ETC applications, as well as applications filed during the regulation process. However, prior to doing so, we hereby request that the various parties to the ETC cases before us file briefs with this Commission by April 19, 2007, regarding whether this Commission should consider the FCC's recommended guidelines for designation of new ETCs as part of the Commission's analysis of ETC applications during this interim period prior to issuance of our own ETC regulations.

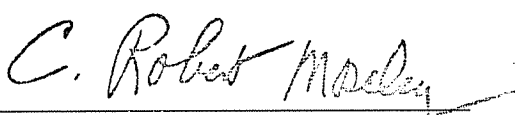
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman
(SEAL)